

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER  
LISTED

APR 08 2009

### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A) Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

Historic name Shimaneek Barn  
Other name/site number 157-3880-0002

#### 2. Location

Street & number [REDACTED]  not for publication  
City or town Munden  vicinity  
State Kansas Code KS County Republic Code 064 Zip code 66959

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patrick Zollner

2-13-09

Patrick Zollner, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Kansas State Historical Society

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official /Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- entered in the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Shimaneek Barn  
Name of Property

Republic County, Kansas  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
1		total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter Categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE / SUBSISTENCE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

AGRICULTURE / SUBSISTENCE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER : Gable-Roof Barn  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: STONE  
Walls: WOOD: Clapboard  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roof: WOOD : Shingle  
Other:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**  
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Shimanek Barn  
Name of Property

Republic County, Kansas  
County and State

### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

#### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

#### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

#### Period of Significance

circa 1900-1958

#### Significant Dates

circa 1900

#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

Shimanek, Wesley

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

#### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Kansas State Historical Society

Shimanek Barn  
Name of Property

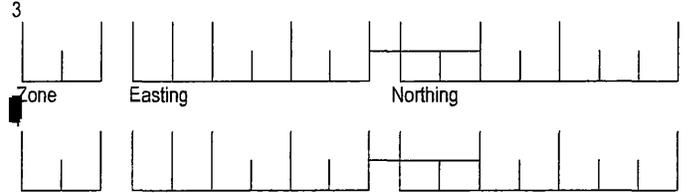
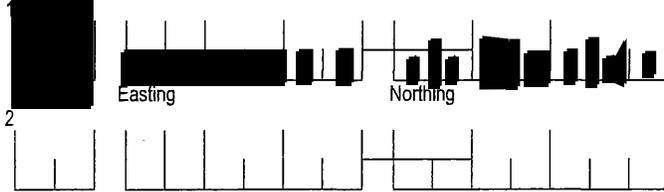
Republic County, Kansas  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Please provide additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)



See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title James and Rita Stehno / KSHS Staff

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Date April 28, 2008

Street & number PO Box 76 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

City or town Munden State Kansas Zip code 66959

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Name James and Rita Stehno

Street & number PO Box 76 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

City or town Munden State Kansas Zip code 66959

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16) U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 1

Shimanek Barn  
Munden, Republic County, Kansas

---

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

The Shimanek Barn (c. 1900) is located on the [REDACTED] farmstead about [REDACTED] of Munden in Republic County. Much of the original farmstead, which included a cattle barn, hog house, chicken house, corncrib, and granary, was destroyed by a tornado in 2004.

Context about Gable-Roof Barn Construction from Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of KS MPS

Along with Gambrel-Roof Barns, Gable-Roof Barns make up the majority of Kansas barns. Most gable-roof barns are one-and-a-half or two-and-a-half stories high, with animal shelters, stalls and/or stanchions, along with granaries on the first floor and hay storage on the upper floors. The majority has vertical cladding, including butted planks and board and batten. The builders often delineated the prominent gables of these barns by accentuating or overlapping the vertical boards that terminate at the start of the gable – to create the appearance of a pent roof. Some of these board ends are finished with a sawtooth or dogeared pattern.

Gable-Roof barns date from all periods of farm development. The earliest Gable-Roof barns are timber-framed with mortise-and-tenon joints. By the late 19th century, farmers combined timber-frame construction with balloon-framing techniques. Timber framing was employed as late as 1923, when farmers could order a pre-cut timber-framed barn from the Sears catalog.

First-floor plan configurations of gable-roof barns differ depending on the barn's historic use and size. Most feature prominent openings on the gable end, with a corresponding center-aisle plan with stanchions, stalls and/or granaries on each side. Some barns feature a T-plan, with intersecting central corridors or perimeter corridors. Some large barns, like the Cooper Barn in Colby, feature two double-loaded corridors, with four rows of stalls.

The upper floors of gable-roof barns are generally devoted solely to hay storage. Gable-end hay doors allow hay to be hoisted from wagons outside the barn directly into the haymow using a hayfork on tracks. Hay hoods, which project from the gable end, provide not only protection for the hay, but also an extended structure for the center track on which the hay fork operated. A few of these barns were built solely for hay storage, with hay stored on the ground of the first floor and stacked to the second-floor roof. Haymows, which are accessible from the exteriors by hay doors or from the interior via ladders or narrow stairs, generally cover the entire second, and sometimes third, floor.

The Gable-Roof category includes barns elsewhere classified as three-bay, English, or threshing barns. Unlike other gable-roof barns, these barns feature a broad-side opening in lieu of a gable-end opening. The broad-side opening corresponds with a central corridor that provides interior access to multiple stories of space. Because these barns allow farmers to drive a wagon in and put up hay from the corridor, they do not have hay hoods on their exteriors. Like other gable-roof barns, these barns have stalls, stanchions, and/or granaries flanking their corridors. True threshing barns, which pre-date mechanized

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 2

Shimanek Barn  
Munden, Republic County, Kansas

---

threshing implements, are relatively rare in Kansas. Although the threshing floor was no longer necessary by the late 19th century, the three-bay side-gabled form remained popular through the early 20th century.

Many of the gable-roof barns have lean-to additions or symmetrical shed bays that create saltbox or broken-gable rooflines.

Description of Shimanek Barn

The Shimanek Barn was built circa 1900 to store horses, hay, and the wagon. The plan configuration is oriented to the broad side of the barn with a center aisle and horse stalls on each side. Hay was stored in the second story and dropped down to the horses when needed. The west bay is one open space where the wagon or small machinery was stored.

This Shimanek Barn does not feature the more common gable-end haymow, but rather a broad-side haymow. It features a two-story gable section with a 1 ½ story shed bay on the west that appears to be original. Both sections have stone foundations and horizontal clapboard siding. It has a wood shingle roof.

The **east elevation** is considered the “front” of the barn. This is the broad side of the barn and features a central single-door entrance (with transom window) and a square haymow opening above it on the second story. The door leads into a central aisle, which is flanked by horse stalls. This elevation also features a door at the northeast corner that opens into one of the horse stalls.

The **south (side) elevation** includes the gable front and shed roof extension with garage door opening. The gabled portion of the building features a central door that opens into one of the horse stalls. There is a small square window opening located in the peak of the gable. The shed roof extension features a single-car garage door opening.

The **west (rear) elevation** is comprised solely of the west elevation of the shed roof extension. It features only clapboard siding and no fenestration.

The **north (side) elevation** includes the gable and shed roof addition. The first story includes a single square window that is situated off-center. Directly above this is another square window on the second story. There are some missing clapboards.

The **windmill** is located near the southwest corner of the barn.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 3

Shimanek Barn  
Munden, Republic County, Kansas

---

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Shimanek Barn (c. 1900), located [REDACTED] of Munden in Republic County, Kansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under the Multiple Property Submission – Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas. The barn is significant under Criterion A and C in the areas of Agriculture and Architecture. The barn is significant as an example of a Gable-Roof, saltbox form barn and for the reflection of its role as a part of a working farmstead.

Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas MPS

Like Bank Barns, Gable-Roof Barns were often constructed to accommodate a variety of uses – from hay storage to animal shelter to granary and corn crib. Before mechanized threshers were available in the 1870s and 1880s, these barns also provided a space for the threshing of wheat, which became a prominent cash crop in Kansas in the 1870s. “English Barns” or “Three-Bay Threshing Barns,” which are included in the Gable-Roof Barn property type, were designed to accommodate the “flailing” operation. These barns are identified by a tripartite interior form and occurrence of double doors on the long sides. The wide doors allowed a wagon to enter. The harvested wheat was placed on a threshing floor, where the grain was separated from the chaff. The Three-Part barn, which originated in Western Europe, was the prevailing barn type in the Old Northwest, from whence a majority of early Kansans emigrated. Threshing barns pre-date mechanized threshers and are, therefore, generally timber-framed.<sup>1</sup>

Although the first threshing machines were available in the 1860s, they were not common until the 1880s. By then, few farmers were hand-flailing wheat. Those who could not afford their own threshing equipment joined together with neighboring farmers to purchase it – or hired crews to thresh their wheat. Combines, which became common in the early Twentieth Century, combined the act of harvesting and threshing.

As farming became increasingly mechanized, farm buildings changed. Without the need for a threshing floor, the second floors of barns could be wholly devoted to hay storage, accessible via an exterior hay door and hoisted using new implements such as hay forks. As farmers placed an increasing premium on hay storage, other barn types began to predominate. In the 1920s, gambrel-roof and arch-roof barns usurped the gable-roof barn as the barn of choice. Catalog companies continued to offer Gable-Roof barns, generally by promoting them as economical alternatives to gambrel-roof models. In 1917, Montgomery Ward advertised a gable-roof barn as “A Good Practical Barn.” The Gordon-Van Tine Company marketed a Gable-Roof barn as “An Extra Strong Barn for the Conservative Buyer.”

---

<sup>1</sup> Noble, *Barns of the Midwest*, Chapter 3.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 4

Shimanek Barn  
Munden, Republic County, Kansas

---

Gable-Roof Barns are relatively equally distributed among the state's regions. However, there are fewer in the state's Northwest Region, where only eight percent of the barn's surveyed were Gable-Roof Barns. They are most common in South-Central Kansas.

The windmill is located near the southwest corner of the barn and pumped water from the ground into nearby tanks for use on the farm. Its proximity to the barn suggests that it primarily served to water the animals housed in the barn. The height of windmill use by farmers occurred between the years 1890 and 1940.<sup>2</sup>

Shimanek Barn

The Munden area was settled in 1871, but the community was not incorporated until 1887. It was named after the owner of the town site, John Munden. By 1910, the population was 275.<sup>3</sup> Wesley Shimanek came to the United States at the age of 16 in 1871. After spending six months in Racine, Wisconsin, he moved to Republic County, Kansas, and settled on this farm near Munden. He was born November 12, 1855 at Nemcic, Plzen, Bohemia. He and Anna Novak, who also came from Bohemia, were married April 24, 1879.

The barn was built circa 1900. An elderly neighbor that tells us this barn was built by Wesley Shimanek with the help of neighbors, and was completed in about 1900. The barn is a saltbox form with a two-story gable section and a 1-½ story shed bay on the west. It has a stone foundation and clapboard siding with a wood shingle roof and a haymow on the upper part. The interior of the horse barn has a center aisle with horse stalls on both sides and a built-in grain box for each horse. Current owner James Stehno remembers feeding the horses hay from the haymow and grain from the grain bin, which is on the right side of the barn. He helped harness the horses and was afraid of getting kicked. Two of his favorite horses were named Barney and Blackie. The horses were used for fieldwork. He remembers using them to pull the hayrack. They picked up the loose hay with pitchforks out in the hayfield and brought it into the yard on the hayrack, then they pitched they hay up into the haymow of the barn. Then later in the more modern days, hay was baled. The bales were stored up in the barn. The reason this barn was called the horse barn was because it was especially used for the horses. There was another barn on this farm that was used for cattle, but it was destroyed by a tornado in 2004. Other buildings were also destroyed by a tornado including a hog house, chicken house, corncrib, and the granary. The washhouse is still standing.

The farm was purchased by Edward and Martha (Shimanek) Stehno in October of 1932. This is current owner James Stehno's parents. James and Rita Stehno purchased the farm from his parents in 1963. James is the third generation to live on and own this farm. Their children, who were raised on the farm,

---

<sup>2</sup> Christy Davis and Brenda Spencer, "Historic Agriculture Related Resources of Kansas" Multiple Property Documentation Form, 2008, F-72-73.

<sup>3</sup> Frank Blackmar, *Kansas: A Cyclopedia of State History*, vol. II (Chicago: Standard Publishing Co., 1912), 332.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 5

Shimanek Barn  
Munden, Republic County, Kansas

---

are the fourth generation. Their grandchildren, who love to come and help out on the farm, are the fifth generation.

The barn was originally used to house horses and store hay. The west side was used for wagons and other farm equipment pulled by the horses. There is still an antique wagon stored in the barn, which was used for picking corn. Now the barn is used for storage. There were several other older buildings on this farm, however the 2004 tornado destroyed most of them. The other building left standing is the washhouse, which was recently re-sided with vinyl.

One interesting story about the horses and the barn was the horses were taken over to the neighbor's to help with the threshing. The horses broke loose and came back to their barn. Back in the early days, the neighbors worked together during thrashing season. Barney and Blackie were found in their stalls in the barn at home. There are fond memories of cousins, friends, and the neighbor kids playing up in the haymow when getting together on Sunday afternoons. It was a great place to play "Hide and Seek."

### Summary

The Shimanek Barn is significant as an excellent representative of the Gable-Roof Barn (with saltbox) property type. It reflects the essential role that barns played on Kansas farms, designed for the multiple purposes of housing livestock and storing hay. The only remaining intact historic features on the farmstead, the barn and adjacent windmill, are nominated to the National Register under Criteria A and C as part of the Multiple Property Nomination, Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 9 Page 6

Shimanek Barn  
Munden, Republic County, Kansas

---

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Blackmar, Frank. *History of the State of Kansas*. Chicago: Standard Publishing Co., 1912.

Davis, Christy and Brenda Spencer. "Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas," Multiple Property Nomination to the National Register, 2008.

Noble, Allen G. and Hubert G. H. Wilhelm, ed. *Barns of the Midwest*. Athens: Ohio University Press, 1995.

Spencer, Brenda. *Kansas Historic Properties Survey Form* for Shimanek Barn, 1 August 2007.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 10 & Photos Page 7

Shimanek Barn  
Munden, Republic County, Kansas

---

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The nomination is for the c. 1900 horse barn and windmill and includes a perimeter of 20 feet. [REDACTED]

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

Most historic buildings on the Stehno farmstead were destroyed by a tornado in 2004. The horse barn and windmill are the key historic features still extant. Therefore, the nomination is limited in scope and only includes the horse barn and windmill.

**PHOTOGRAPIC INFORMATION**

Property Name: Shimanek Barn  
Location: [REDACTED]  
Photographer: Brenda Spencer  
Date: 2 July 2007

- Photo 1: Southeast corner – showing the gable front and saltbox with garage door opening, facing NW
- Photo 2: Northeast corner – showing broad side of the barn with the square haymow opening, facing SW
- Photo 3: Northwest corner – showing the gable and saltbox, facing SE
- Photo 4: Interior, looking through the door on the south elevation, facing N
- Photo 5: Interior, saltbox wing, facing N
- Photo 6: Interior, second story